

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

means for communicating the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto by performing communication pertaining to functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data.

2. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and/or second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means; and

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means,

wherein communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), is performed when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus with which said first communicating means communicates, electronic mail data is sent by said first communicating means by attaching image data corresponding to a common baseline image data format standard which the communication partner is able to process.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus with which said first communicating means communicates, and if communication by said second communicating means is designated and a facsimile number of a receiving party is designated, said second communicating means communicates image data.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if during the communication by said first communicating means a communication error occurs in communication of image data and in communication pertaining to delivery confirmation, retransmission is performed by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a plurality of individually preset number of times of retransmission including zero, in accordance with contents of the communication error.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein no retransmission is performed if the contents of the communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data describing information concerning communication error information is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or a previously designated electronic mail address.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data having image data attached is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, communication is performed in accordance with a designation of whether transmission of electronic mail by attaching image data by a common baseline image data format standard which the communication partner is able to process or retransmission is to be performed.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the common baseline image data format standard is an MH coding system considered to be

essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 pels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are separately performed by at least two calls.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call or separately performed by different calls.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein functional information of a destination apparatus is acquired by communication using one of said first and second communicating means, a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function is registered or updated, and, if said first communicating means is to communicate data, the data is converted into a standard registered in said database and communicated.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted is set for each function item registered in said database.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein if an address of another party with respect to said first communicating means is input, display information related to functional information is switched on an operation panel ~~is switched~~ ~~on the basis of~~ based on information in said database.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs in said first communicating means, said second

communicating means communicates image data if communication by said second communicating means is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said first communicating means is to perform communication concerning the functional information, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function need not be exchanged.

22. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and
means for sending electronic mail by attaching image data by ~~one of image standards which a communication partner is able to process~~ the standards of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) if a communication error occurs when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

23. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

means for designating an image format including a resolution of image data;

and

means for requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the designated image format, of another party,

wherein functional information of the other party is not requested if the designated image format is an image format ~~which the other party is able to process~~ defined by the TIFF.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

an identifier for relating pieces of electronic mail concerning pieces of functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the same process to each other, when said first communicating means is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network, wherein, communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), is executed if said first communication procedure is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached thereto.

26. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising sending electronic mail data by said first communication procedure by attaching image data corresponding to a common baseline image data format standard, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising communicating image data by said second communication procedure, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus performed by said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure and a facsimile number of another party are designated.

28. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing retransmission, if during the communication by said first

communication procedure a communication error occurs in communication of image data and in communication pertaining to delivery confirmation, by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a plurality of numbers of times of retransmission including zero, which are individually set in advance, in accordance with the contents of the communication error.

29. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 28, further comprising performing no retransmission if the contents of the communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

30. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising transmitting, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data describing information concerning communication error information to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

31. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 30, further comprising transmitting, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data having image data attached to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

32. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing communication, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, in accordance with a designation of whether transmission of electronic mail by attaching image data by a ~~common~~ baseline image format standard or retransmission is to be performed.

33. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 32, further comprising performing communication such that the ~~common~~ baseline image format standard is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 gels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

34. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

35. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising separately performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery

confirmation by at least two calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

36. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing or separately performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call or by different calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

37. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

38. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verifying the timeout by recall, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

39. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring functional information of a destination apparatus by communication using one of said first and second communication procedures, registering or updating a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function, and,

if communication is to be performed by said first communication procedure, converting an image standard designated by a user into a standard registered in said database on the basis of information of said database, and communicating the image.

40. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising setting whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted for each function item registered in said database.

41. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising switching a display on an operation panel related to functional information ~~on an operation panel on the basis of~~ based on information in said database, if an address of another party is input in said first communication procedure.

42. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, communicating image data by said second communication procedure, if a communication error occurs in said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

43. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, not exchanging, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function, when communication concerning functional information is to be performed by said first communication procedure.

45. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

a procedure of, if a communication error occurs while electronic mail data having image data attached thereto is communicated by said first communication procedure, sending electronic mail by attaching the image data by ~~one of image standards which the other party is able to process~~ the standards of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

46. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

a procedure of designating an image format including a resolution of image data; and

a procedure of requesting functional information, pertaining to the designated image format, of the other party, and not to request functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), of the other party if the designated image format is an image format ~~which the other party is able to process~~ which is defined by the TIFF.

47. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

a procedure of, when electronic mail data having image data attached is to be communicated by said first communication procedure, relating electronic mail concerning pieces of functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the same process, electronic mail of a text, and electronic mail concerning delivery confirmation, to each other.

48. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

49. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

a first communication step of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

a step of sending, if a communication error occurs while electronic mail having image data attached is communicated in said first communication step, the electronic mail by attaching the image data by ~~one of image standards which the other party is able to process~~ the standards of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

50. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

a first communication step of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

a step of designating an image format including a resolution of image data; and

a step of requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) pertaining to the designated image format, of another party,

wherein if the designated image format is an image format ~~which the other party is able to process~~ defined by the TIFF, functional information of the other party is not requested.

51. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and
performing communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), when electronic mail data having facsimile-format image data attached thereto is communicated, in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data.

52. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by a plurality of communication apparatuses connected to the Internet; and
means for performing communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), when electronic mail data having facsimile-format image data attached is communicated between said communication apparatuses, in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data.

53. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and/or second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;
first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means; and

means for receiving information on delivery confirmation by said first communicating means,

wherein when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached, a communication result report is output which indicates one of information representing that communication of image information is successful, information representing that communication of image information has failed, information representing that a communication result of image information is unverified, and information representing that the electronic mail data has been communicated by attaching image data ~~corresponding to a common image data format~~ by the standard defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

54. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 53, further comprising second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

55. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when said second communicating means performs communication, two types of communication result reports indicating information representing that communication of image information is successful and information representing that communication of image information has failed are output.

56. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network,

wherein when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached, a communication result report is output which indicates one of information representing that communication of image information is successful, information representing that communication of image information has failed, information representing that a communication result of image information is unverified, and information representing that the electronic mail data has been communicated by attaching image data ~~corresponding to a common image data format~~ by the standard defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), and, when said second communicating-means performs communication, a communication result report indicating one of information representing that communication of image information is successful and information representing that communication of image information has failed is output.

57. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

58. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

outputting, when electronic mail data having image data attached is communicated, a communication result report which indicates one of information representing that communication of image information is successful, information representing that communication of image information has failed, information representing that a communication result of image information is unverified, and information representing that the electronic mail data has been communicated by attaching image data ~~corresponding to a common image data format~~ by the standard defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

59. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by a plurality of communication apparatuses connected to the Internet; and
means for outputting, from said communication apparatuses, when electronic mail data having image data attached is communicated, a communication result report indicating one of information representing that communication of image information is successful, information representing that communication of image information has failed, information representing that a communication result of image information is unverified, and information representing that the electronic mail data has been communicated by attaching image data ~~corresponding to a common image data format~~ by the standard defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

60. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a procedure of the communication method according to claim 58.

61. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and/or second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;
first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means; and
a database for holding information pertaining to functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).
wherein said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

62. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

63. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said apparatus has an electronic mail address registration function of registering an address of a communication partner and, when an electronic mail address using said first communicating means is registered in said electronic mail address registration function,

communication concerning functional information is performed with respect to a destination apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function, and the functional information is registered or updated with respect to an item, corresponding to the registered electronic mail address, in said database.

64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein in accordance with whether connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection via said wide area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, whether communication concerning functional information with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function is to be performed is individually set during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein in accordance with whether connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection via said wide area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, communication concerning functional information is performed with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function and, if no functional information of said communication partner apparatus is acquired, functional information corresponding to a common image data format standard is registered, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

66. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising means for transmitting the contents of said database to a communication partner apparatus,

said means notifying said communication partner apparatus of information registered in said database each time said database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

67. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising means for transmitting the contents of said database to an electronic mail server for distributing electronic mail data to a connected communication partner apparatus, said means notifying said electronic mail server of information registered in said database each time said database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

68. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
a plurality of communication apparatuses each of which comprises:
first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and/or second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;
first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means; and
a database for holding information concerning functional information,
which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF),

wherein each apparatus communicates electronic mail data having image data attached by said first communicating means,

wherein on the basis of information about broadcast of a database pertaining to the functional information from an electronic mail server to which said plurality of communication apparatuses are connected and which distributes electronic mail data to

said plurality of communication apparatuses, said database of each communication apparatus is updated to allow said plurality of communication apparatuses to share the contents of said databases.

69. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 68, wherein each apparatus further comprises second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

70. (Original) The system according to claim 68, wherein when said electronic mail server distributes electronic mail data having facsimile image data attached to said communication apparatus connected, delivery confirmation is returned to said communication apparatus connected, without distributing the electronic mail data having facsimile information attached to said communication apparatus or after the electronic mail data is distributed to said communication apparatus, after said electronic mail server completes data reception.

71. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;
means for designating an image format including a resolution of image data;
and
means for requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to

the designated image format, of a communication partner, wherein if functional information of said communication partner is known, the functional information of said communication partner is not requested.

72. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network; and

a database for holding information concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

wherein said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

73. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network;

searching a database for information concerning functional information,
which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF); and

communicating electronic mail data having image data attached by said first communication procedure.

74. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 73, further comprising an electronic mail address registration function for registering an address of a communication partner, and

performing communication pertaining to functional information, when an electronic mail address is registered in said electronic mail address registration function, with a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function, and registering or updating the functional information with respect to an item, corresponding to the registered electronic mail address, in said database.

75. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 74, further comprising individually setting, in accordance with whether connection to the Internet is a dial-up connection via a wide area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, whether communication concerning functional information with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function is to be performed, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

76. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 74, further comprising performing communication concerning functional information, in accordance with whether connection to the Internet is a dial-up connection via a wide area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, with a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function and, if no functional information of said communication partner apparatus is acquired, registering functional information corresponding to a common image data format standard, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

77. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 73, further comprising a procedure of transferring the contents of said database to a communication partner apparatus, and

notifying another communication partner apparatus of information registered in said database each time said database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

78. (Previously Presented) The medium according to claim 73, further comprising a procedure of transferring the contents of said database to an electronic mail server for distributing electronic mail data addressed to a communication partner apparatus connected, and notifying said electronic mail server of information registered in said database each time a database of said communication partner apparatus is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

79. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication apparatus which comprises:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network; and

a database for holding information concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF),

wherein the communication apparatus communicates electronic mail data having image data attached by said first communicating means,

wherein on the basis of information about broadcast of a database pertaining to the functional information from an electronic mail server to which a plurality of said communication apparatuses are connected and which distributes electronic mail data to said plurality of communication apparatuses, said database of each communication apparatus is updated to allow said plurality of communication apparatuses to share the contents of said databases.

80. (Original) The system according to claim 79, wherein when said electronic mail server distributes electronic mail data having facsimile image data attached to said communication apparatus connected, delivery confirmation is returned to said communication apparatus connected, without distributing the electronic mail data having facsimile information attached to said communication apparatus or after the electronic mail

data is distributed to said communication apparatus, after said electronic mail server completes data reception.

81. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

a procedure of designating an image format including a resolution of image data; and

a procedure of requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the designated image format, of the other party, and not to request functional information of the other party if the functional information of the other party is known.

82. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

83. (Original) The system according to claim 68, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

84. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

85. (Currently Amended) A communication method of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

designating an image format including a resolution of image data;

requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the designated image format, of a communication partner apparatus; and

if functional information of said communication partner is known, not requesting the functional information of said communication partner.

86. (Currently Amended) A communication method of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

performing communication pertaining to functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), when a mail address is registered in an electronic mail address registration function, with a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function; and

registering or updating the functional information with respect to an item, corresponding to the registered electronic mail address, in a database.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 86, wherein in accordance with whether the connection to the Internet is a dial-up connection via a wide

area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, whether communication concerning functional information with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function is to be performed is individually set during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 86, wherein in accordance with whether the connection to the Internet is a dial-up connection via a wide area network or a dedicated-line IP connection, communication concerning functional information is performed with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function and, if no functional information of said communication partner apparatus is acquired, functional information corresponding to a common image data format standard is registered, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

89. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein if the connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein if the connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

92. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

93. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 35, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if the connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

94. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 35, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verifying timeout by recall, if the connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

95. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 36, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if the connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

96. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 36, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verifying timeout by recall, if the connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

97. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

98. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

99. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

100. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.